

PRESS RELEASE

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ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORIST WHO WAS A FUGITIVE FOR SEVEN YEARS IS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Peter Daniel Young, DOB: 6/27/1977, originally of Mercer Island, Washington, was sentenced late yesterday by U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen L. Crocker to 24 months in prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$254,840.00 in restitution for animal enterprise terrorism.

In September 1998, Peter D. Young and Justin C. Samuel were indicted by a grand jury sitting in the Western District of Wisconsin for their actions in releasing thousands of mink from three Wisconsin farms in late 1997. Young was a fugitive sought by the federal government on these charges for the past seven years. He was apprehended by local police in San Jose, California in March 2005, while shoplifting music CD's. Young was using an alias and false identification at the time of his arrest.

On September 2, 2005, Young pleaded guilty to two counts of animal enterprise terrorism. At the plea hearing, Young admitted the following facts. In October 1997, Young and Samuel set out on a cross-country journey to attack fur farms and release

livestock with the intent to free the mink and cause significant economic damage to the farms. Samuel and Young carried dark clothing and masks, along with bolt cutters and a list of addresses of farms in the Midwest that raise animals for fur production. This list of fur farms was produced by a national animal rights terrorist organization known as the Animal Liberation Front. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for at least one of the attacks committed by Samuel and Young. During their travel cross-country, Samuel and Young attacked mink farms in three states - South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, one of the largest mink producing states in the country.

Young's co-conspirator, Justin Samuel was a fugitive until September 1999, when he was arrested in Belgium. The United States extradited Samuel from Belgium to Wisconsin to face charges for the terrorist activity. Samuel pleaded guilty in 2000 and was sentenced to 24 months in prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release, and \$364,106.00 in restitution to be made to farmers victimized by the cross-country spree to release mink from mink farms in the Midwest. Samuel's conviction was the first in the United States under the animal enterprise terrorism statute.

In 2002, the United States Congress made Animal Enterprise Terrorism a felony offense when it increased the penalties to a maximum of three years in prison. In 1997, however, the crime was a misdemeanor, and Young's sentence was limited by the penalties in effect at the time he committed the attacks.

The charges against Peter Daniel Young were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of numerous state and local law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin, South Dakota, Iowa, Washington, California, and Virginia. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

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